

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of the national wildlife refuge system is to provide habitat for the conservation and protection of fish and wildlife. The regulated harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with the environment, provide recreational opportunities, and permit the use of a valuable renewable natural resource.

The 50,180 acre Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1934 primarily to preserve wintering habitat for migratory waterfowl. The refuge's predominant feature is the 40,000 acre Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest natural lake in North Carolina.

General Hunting Regulations

Mattamuskeet Refuge is open to hunting of tundra swan, snow geese, ducks, coots, and white-tailed deer in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations. The regulations below supplement the general regulations found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, which govern activities, including hunting, on national wildlife refuges.

Hunters under the age of 16 must have successfully passed a State-approved hunter education course and provide proof of certification (card or certificate) upon request, and must be directly supervised by an adult 21 years of age or older.

Permits are required to hunt on Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. Hunters may apply to participate in either hunt by sending a 3x5 index card to the refuge with the applicant's name, address, date of birth, and preference of hunt date(s) in accordance with the instructions for each type of hunt. Submission of more than **one** application by any one hunter

Deer Hunt

(either singly or in a group) shall be cause for rejection of **all** his/her applications. There is no fee to apply.

Deer hunting will be authorized on Mattamuskeet Refuge during two-day paired hunts on October 3 & 4, and October 24 & 25.

The refuge is divided into two hunt areas for the deer hunt. The West Hunt Area consists of all refuge lands west of NC Highway 94. The East Hunt Area consists of all refuge lands east of NC Highway 94 except for approximately 600 acres which includes the Entrance Road, MI-4 impoundment, and the Headquarters area which are closed to hunting. (see map on reverse side).

Applications and Permits

Deer hunt applicants must indicate first, their preference of hunt dates (October 3 & 4 or October 24 & 25) and second, their preference of hunt area (East or West).

Deer hunt applications can be made singly or by groups of up to 5 hunters. In the case of a group application, the application cards of all group members must be attached together in one envelope and marked “Party Hunt.”

Applications must be received at Refuge Headquarters by 4:00 pm on August 25 to be considered. A public drawing will be held at 1:00 pm on August 28. Those applicants drawn will be notified by mail. A user fee of \$12.50 will be required to receive a permit. After the completion of the public drawing, any unissued permits will be provided on a first come, first serve basis.

Bag Limits

With the appropriate North Carolina big game license, each hunter may take one antlered and one antlerless or two antlerless deer per day on Mattamuskeet Refuge.

Manner of Take

Deer may only be taken with shotgun, muzzleloading rifle/shotgun, or bow and arrow. Possession of modern rifles, pistols, and other weapons is prohibited on the refuge. Authorized firearms are permitted on the refuge only on the day of the hunt.

Access

Permitted deer hunters will be authorized access from one hour before until one hour after legal shooting time on the day of the hunt. Hunters may use boats to access hunt areas. Hunters may not hunt from boats.

Vehicles are restricted to designated roads only. Access to open hunting areas behind road gates will be by foot, bicycle, and/or boat only.

Disabled sportsmen with valid proof of disability, should contact the refuge office prior to arrival if special arrangements are needed.

Hunters are reminded that the land adjacent to the refuge is privately owned and entering or hunting on this land is at the discretion of the landowner.

Check Stations

All deer taken on Mattamuskeet Refuge must be checked at the Deer Check Station at Refuge Headquarters. Weights and other biological information will be collected. Field dressing harvested animals is allowed and encouraged. No facilities are available for dressing deer at the check station.

Other Special Regulations

All persons participating in the deer hunt must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange-colored material above the waistline that is visible from any direction.

The construction and/or use of permanent blinds, platforms, and/or ladders is prohibited. Portable blinds and tree stands may not be put up prior to the hunt and must be removed from the refuge after each day's hunt.

The use of nails, wire screws (including lag-screw type steps) or bolts to attach a stand to a tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter is prohibited.

The use of dogs to hunt deer is prohibited.

An adult can supervise only one youth hunter.

Waterfowl hunting will be authorized on approximately 4,000 acres of open water and marsh on the south side of Lake Mattamuskeet. The waterfowl hunt dates will be scheduled as two-day paired hunts on Tuesday - Wednesdays and Friday - Saturdays. Specific dates will be announced in September via a news release.

A Youth Hunt for hunters aged 12-15 is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 24 and 25.

Applications and Permits

Waterfowl hunt applicants should indicate three preferences of two-day hunts on their card. Disabled sportsmen should mark “Handicapped Blind” on their application card and provide valid proof of disability. Youth hunters should mark “Youth Hunt” on their application.

Application cards must be received by 4:00 pm on Friday, October 6. A drawing will be conducted at 1:00 pm on October 10. Individuals selected for the waterfowl hunt will be reserved two consecutive hunt dates and may bring two guests to participate in the

hunt. A user fee of \$12.50 per person will be collected prior to hunting each day of the waterfowl hunt. Unclaimed reservations as of 5:00 am of each hunt date will be allotted to standbys via a lottery system.

Bag Limits

Same as prescribed by the State.

Manner of Take

Waterfowl may only be taken with shotguns using approved non-toxic shot.

Access

Access to hunt area is by vehicle on Wildlife Drive and then via foot or non-motorized boat.

Check Stations

All waterfowl taken must be checked at a check station at Refuge Headquarters prior to leaving the refuge. Biological and public use data will be collected for management purposes.

Other Special Regulations

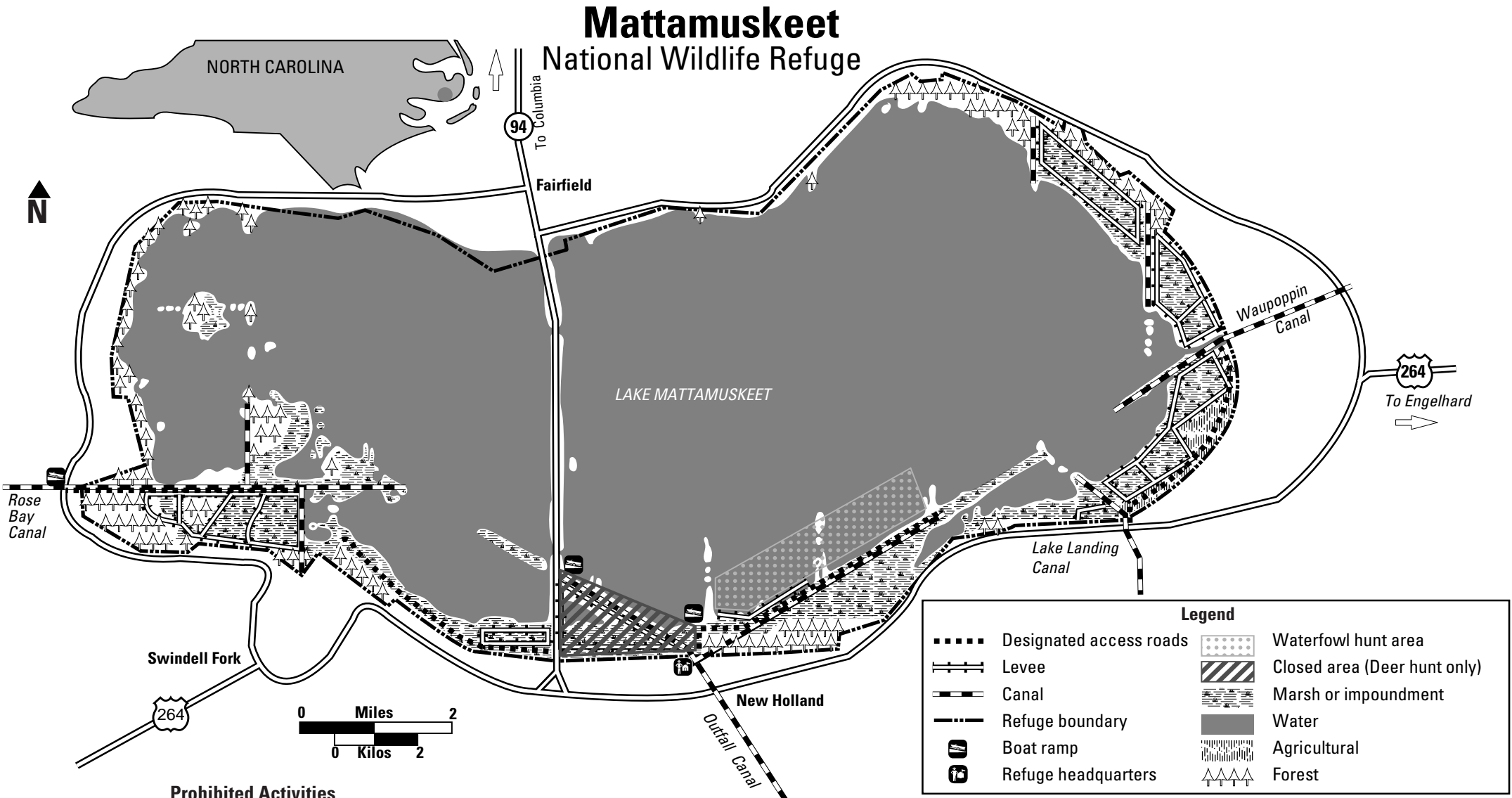
Shooting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise until 12 noon, except for the first day of the first youth hunt. The shooting hours for this day are 1:00 pm until sunset.

Hunting is restricted to the assigned blind. Only crippled birds may be shot from outside the blind.

Hunting is restricted to the use and possession of non-toxic shot shells only. There is a 25 shell limit per hunter per day.

Mattamuskeet

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2000-2001



Prohibited Activities

- Baiting or hunting over bait
- Transporting loaded firearms in vehicles and boats
- Blocking roads, trails or fire lanes
- Camping
- Littering
- Open fires
- Overnight parking
- Taking wildlife or plants without authorization
- Trapping
- Using artificial lights (including vehicle headlights) to locate, observe, or take wildlife
- Using or possessing alcoholic beverages while hunting

For additional information, contact:
Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
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252/926 4021

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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